

Andrew Jackson to Samuel Houston, September 4, 1836, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO GENERAL SAMUEL HOUSTON.

Hermitage, September 4, 1836.

Genl Saml Houston

commander in chief of the army of the Texian Republic.

Sir, your letter of the 9th ultimo dated at Nacogdoches (Texas) with the documents therein referred to was recd. by express on my way from Florence hither, where I reached on the 3rd instant, and hasten to acknowledge its receipt.

I have duly examined the contents of your letter and the other documents referred to, and regret that Mexico by her Minister Mr. Gorrastisa has made known to this Government, that Mexico does not, nor will not recognize any act of Genl Santa Anna, as President of Mexico, since he has been made Prisoner, and that the agreement made by him with Texas will not be recognised, and agreed to by Mexico. you will at once see that until the Govt. *de facto* of Mexico, asks the friendly interposition of our good offices to put an end to the war I cannot interfere— *if she does* , it will give us pleasure to become the mediator between you. I shall set out in a few days for washington, and will there make your note to me, and that of Genl St anna, the basis of an interview with the Mexican Minister. In the mean time I would remark, that I have seen a report that Genl St. anna was to be brought before a military court, to be tried and shot. nothing now could tarnish the character of Texas more than such an act at this late period. it was good policy as well as humanity that spared him—it has given you possession of Goliad and the Alamo without blood, or

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loss of the strength of your army—his person is still of much consequence to you, he is the pride of the Mexican soldiers and the favorite of the Priesthood and whilst he is in your power the priests will not furnish the supplies necessary for another campaign, nor will the regular soldier *voluntarily* march when their reentering Texas may endanger or cost their favorite Genl his life, therefore preserve his life and the character you have won; and let not his blood be shed unless it becomes necessary by an imperative act of just retaliation for Mexican massacres hereafter. this is what I think, true wisdom and humanity dictates.

I inclose you a letter to Genl St anna which you will please seal and cause to be delivered to him.

I am Genl with great respect your mo. obdt. servt.